

## **Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council – Statement on Cancellation of Circus**

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to apologise to local parishioners for the cancellation of the circus at short notice earlier this week

This followed advice from ‘Rotherham Events Safety Advisory Group’ (RESAG) which was prompted by a significant increase in Rotherham infection rates over the weekend. (See statement below)

The cancellation was in no way attributed to any issues with the James Richards Circus who had put in place the strict measures required by Government Guidance and were ready to entertain parishioners.

The Parish Council has a duty to protect the health and wellbeing of its residents and as such, following consideration of information and advice received, had no alternative but to cancel the event which has previously been well received. The circus will be very welcome to return to Aston-cum-Aughton in the future which will hopefully be next year.

Alan Hodkin  
Clerk to Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council

## **RMBC - STATEMENT**

Members of the multi-agency partnership Rotherham Events Safety Advisory Group (RESAG) recently wrote to Aston Parish Council to advise they consider cancelling the circus due to a significant increase in Rotherham infection rates over the weekend. Following this, Aston Parish Council made the decision to cancel the event.

Chair of the RESAG Polly Hamilton said: “The Government allows for events to take place provided there are strict measures in place to prevent the spread of infection.

“Over the last few weeks, members of the RESAG have been working with the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum to develop guidelines for the safe delivery of events at this time, with one of the guiding principles being local infection rates.

“Infection rates have been rising over the last few weeks within the borough with a sharp increase at the weekend. There is no indication the rates are likely to decrease, so following liaison with South Yorkshire Police and Public Health England regional and local office, we wrote to Aston Parish Council on Monday to advise the circus should not go ahead.

“We are fully supportive of Aston Parish Council’s decision to cancel the circus and we appreciate the work which goes into the planning and running of such events. Given the rise in infection rates over the last week, we must all work together to prevent the increase in infection rates, to help keep Rotherham open. We thank the Parish Council and the Circus for playing their part.”

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